

THE NEW AGE

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EDITORIAL

THE WHITE REPUBLICANS.

That branch of the republican party of Louisiana composed of and representing what is known as the Lily Whites, through its state central committee held a convention yesterday in this city and adopted a platform and nominated candidates for state officers.

The platform of principles set forth by this wing of the republican party is printed elsewhere. It denounces the democratic party in the state of everything done or held by the democracy, except the doctrine of white supremacy. Its declaration on that subject is as follows:

"We believe there is no race of people equal in civilization and moral courage to the white race, and we favor its dominating influence, believing that it is capable and brave enough to settle all issues in a proper and orderly way according to the constitution and laws of the land, and that it will maintain its ascendancy and the control of its rights by being just, generous and honest at all times, exacting from themselves as well as from all other races of men obedience to the laws, because this is the cornerstone of a free government and the only guide in the settlement of all the problems of government."

This is what the Southern people stand for, and it is not surprising that the white republicans should have adopted it as distinctly as have the democrats. But it must be remembered that nearly half of the population of Louisiana is composed of Negroes, and under the existing state constitution Negroes who can read and write, or who pay taxes on \$200 worth of property are alone admitted to the elective franchise.

But while there is a considerable number of these and the number is yearly increasing, not a Negro was present in yesterday's convention, nor were all the white republicans represented in it. The other wing of the party, composed of whites and Negroes, and known as "Black and Tan," had no connection with the affair. Whether they will hold another convention or take any action in the premises, remains to be seen. The Black and Tan element had great confidence in Senator Hanna, and hoped much from him to whom they were devoted. His death was a heavy blow to them.

Whether they will be allowed representation in the Chicago national republican convention, since the death of the Senator, is something that probably they cannot answer themselves.

As to the ticket nominated by the Lily Whites yesterday, it is a mere perfunctory affair. Its personnel stands for nothing in particular, and with the exception of General Behan, who has been named for governor, they are practically unknown out of their several neighborhoods. Nevertheless, they cannot be treated with contempt. They must be considered in view of the strenuous efforts that have been made by demagogues to divide the democratic party.

Henry Rosenberg, of Galveston, Texas, bequeathed funds for the erection of a library to be used exclusively for Negroes. This is said to be the first instance of the kind in the South and shows that let race prescription do its worst friends will be raised up to help the Negro in his intellectual advancement.

Friendship cannot be sensational. When the rough edges of early acquaintance wear away, there should be a smoothness about friendship that is comforting at all times.

A real race man is one who is interested in the progress of mankind and who regards civilization as a duty, personal and pre-eminently responsible.

"The boy is father of the man," and in some households he is also father of all in sight.

He who sacrifices duty for love is only human. Duty is convincing, but love is omnipotent.

EDITORIALS

OPINIONS OF GREAT PAPERS ON IMPORTANT SUBJECTS

Germany and Tramps.

GERMANY has solved the tramp problem. It is announced that she is reasonably free from vagrants, and that such as are slinking about the byways are a relatively harmless lot, who seldom commit robberies and assaults of magnitude. And the way she has settled the difficulty is this: She arrests all tramps and puts them at work. She makes the work so much harder than the work of decent men that, after a trial of it, the tramps reform and quit the road. In our own country we have an army of the useless and vicious, from which is annually recruited a considerable addition to the ranks of the active criminals.

There is not so much in vagrancy itself which conduces to crime. Indeed some men would be in better health and morals if they occasionally allowed their legs to run away with them and carry them into the country, where they would renew the physical life that grows anemic at the bench and the desk. It is not the free and open air life that demands; it is the effort to live without work; to get all and give nothing; to shift and sneak and steal in order to obtain food, instead of toiling honestly, even for an hour or two a day. Many of the tramps that are now idling along our highways and "hooking" rides on freight trains could pay for their meals by sawing a little wood, or weeding a garden patch, but they are extremely unwilling to do it, although not infrequently they work as hard at robbery as other people do at honorable employment.

Tramps carry moral corruption as they do physical contagion. Although mentally sodden and representative of a class that gradually eliminates itself, since it is an easy prey to the diseases that are invited by meager, un-governed life, with spells of dissipation and periods of exposure and hardship, they exert some influence over young people whose minds and habits are still unformed, and when a boy is found in their company prison authorities assure us that it would be better for him if he were dead. The boys who drift into the reformatories and gaols of the land, after a season on the road, are among the most depraved that the authorities have to deal with. Our tramp army, then, is a missionary company that is going about the land preaching and practicing the most detestable of vices and often involved in crime.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Time to Close the Gates.

LONDON newspapers are gloating over the fact that the slums of that city are being depleted by reason of the \$9.00 steerage rate, which enables the riffraff of Europe to come to the United States. As a result this country is threatened with a deluge of the offscourings of the world. We are menaced with an overflow of the scum and dregs of pauperized humanity. The managers of the transatlantic steamship lines engaged in this despicable traffic apparently have no other thought in the matter than of the income it brings. Having landed a shipload of the refuse of Europe's population on our shores these steamship agents practically say: "Now, you beggars, shift for yourselves!"

The situation demands immediate and energetic action on the part of the immigration authorities at our Eastern ports. There ought to be a thorough sifting and winnowing of this horde of newcomers, a majority of whom are chronic beggars and professional criminals.

The steerage rate war, which has brought the emigrant fare from Liverpool to New York down to \$10, is the kind of a rate war which no thoughtful American citizen can regard with satisfaction. On the contrary it suggests a deluge of pauper immigrants of the most undesirable type.

It is easy to see how, under a possible continuation of these rates, several of the old world governments can well afford to pay the passage of countless hordes of their poverty-stricken, ignorant and turbulent subjects to America, making this country a dump for the refuse of continental Europe. Here is a subject which should arouse Congress to speedy action. When a person can travel from the Roumanian provinces to New York for \$15, it is time to set about putting up the bars in earnest.

This country welcomes thrift, intelligence and loyalty to law and order from whatever land they hail. But our republican institutions are already taxed to the danger

point in the effort to assimilate the legions of illiterate immigrants that are coming to our shores from southern and far eastern Europe. There is a general feeling that the time has come to impose greater restrictions upon the importation of this class of persons.

Those who assert that this would be a violation of the tradition that this country is the asylum for the oppressed of all races should remember that with nations as with individuals, self-preservation is the first law of nature.—Chicago Journal.

"Passing of the Country Church."

THE "Passing of the Country Church" is the title of an interesting article in the Outlook by James E. Boyle. From this article we learn, if we do not already know it, that the country, upon which we have been accustomed to look as the stronghold of organized religion, has lost its character as such in recent years. According to Mr. Boyle, the decay of the rural church is due chiefly to the tendency to schisms and divisions. The congregations divide and subdivide over some new religious dogma or some difference in dogma, and with each division the amount of true religion decreases.

"The rural church," says Mr. Boyle, "seems doomed. Each time it changes name—now Baptist, now New Light, now Saint—it loses in membership and vitality. Its fire may be relumed temporarily, but its ultimate extinction is inevitable. Soon the little church stands by the wayside forsaken. The doorstep decked with tall weeds, the windows broken. Then it becomes a granary or a corn crib for some thrifty farmer, or is torn down and carried away. This process may take years, even decades, but it is inevitable."

Mr. Boyle does not think that the decline of the rural church is accompanied by an increase of vice and crime in the rural districts. The country school house is better and more influential than ever. The rural free delivery mail box is fast appearing at every front gate. Intelligence is more widely disseminated than formerly. There is less ignorance. The people are no longer interested by the kind of preaching that used to appeal to them.

The higher order of rural intelligence demands a better church than the old country church ever was or could be. In the future Mr. Boyle thinks the church people of the country will belong to strong and ably conducted churches in the towns and villages. Thus the building of good roads, the introduction of rural free delivery, the building of suburban trolley lines and the popularization of the automobile will have a good effect religiously as well as materially, for they will strongly tend to give the rural communities a better religious connection than they ever had in the old days of small country churches.—Minneapolis Journal.

What Kills Men in War.

IN the last issue of the Army and Navy Journal some data are given as to the number of wounds actually inflicted by the bayonet and saber as compared with firearms and artillery. Of all wounds treated by medical officers of the Union armies in the Civil War about four-tenths of 1 per cent, or 922 out of 240,712, were saber or bayonet wounds. In the Crimean War the English and French had 2 1/2 per cent of such wounds; in the Schleswig-Holstein War about 3 per cent, while in the Franco-Prussian War the records show that the Germans received less than one-third of 1 per cent.

"A striking commentary this upon the advance of modern military science, showing that with the general adoption of long range firearms the saber and bayonet are rapidly falling into disuse, and the time is coming, if it has not already arrived, when those old and honored weapons will become obsolete."

But it is not the bullet or the artillery fire which strikes down the largest number of men. It is disease. In the Civil War one man out of every 6.7 was wounded in action; one of every 38 died of his wounds; one of every 42.7 was killed in action. Of the total mortality among colored soldiers 90 per cent was from disease. Of the total mortality among the white volunteers, 70 per cent was owing to disease; among the white regulars, 90 per cent.—Chicago Tribune.

DANCES A DAY AND A HALF.

Somali Woman Infected with Religious Frenzy in English Town.

A Somali woman has astonished Bradford holiday-makers by dancing without a stop for thirty-six hours. It was no part of her business thus to exert herself; she simply entered with excessive and unexpected heartiness into the spirit of the great Whitsuntide festival.

A number of women of the Somali tribe are proving a great attraction at Bradford exhibition, and it was explained to them that Whitsuntide is a great religious celebration, corresponding in importance with their Muharram, also an occasion of rejoicing.

The festival proved infectious, for one of the women broke into what is termed "the mad dance." Her companions unconcernedly became passive spectators of the woman's frenzied exertions.

A quick, eccentric and yet at times rhythmical step was maintained for the long period stated. Not for one moment did the dancer pause for refreshment or rest. She collapsed at the close of the thirty-sixth hour. After an interval she was housed by the other Somali women, who, by beating their tambourines and by cries of exhortation, succeeded in encouraging her to another effort.

The second dance, however, did not last long and the woman again fell exhausted.

Following this had another of the natives—a man—lost his head and frantically threatened the holiday-makers, who were started by his wild conduct. He was taken in hand by the police, however, and eventually calmed down.—London Express.

The Naked Truth.

She was a gushing young thing, given to springing curious queries on unsuspecting people. He was a plain, blunt man, who hated gush and guahers. She suddenly flashed her thoughtful eyes upon him and said: "Don't you think poor Adam must have had a great deal on his mind when he wandered alone in the Garden of Eden?"

He callously replied: "Well, from the accounts I have read of the party you mention, I should say that whatever he did have on must have been on his mind. That's the naked truth for you."

The bare idea was horrible, and she was going to faint when she thought of her new dress and saw him clutch the pitcher of water. They speak no more.

When a man carries his gloves, it is a greater offense than wearing them.

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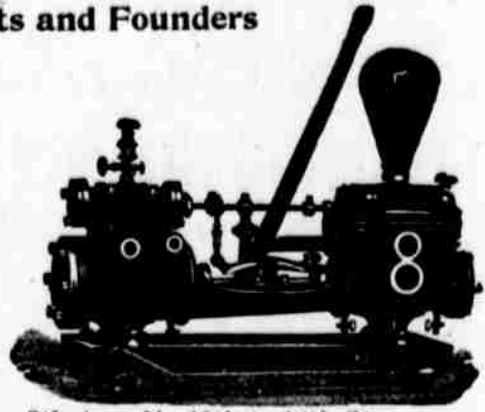
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